

No other nests have been found in the area, but the finches are still present and are sighted from time to time. The homestead clearing is about three acres in extent and is bounded by jarrah forest, and by thickets of scrub along the creek. The flock is often in the orchard or in the groves of *Albizzia lophantha* along the watercourse, and at one counting in November 1964 there were at least nineteen birds present. Jungle Gully is situated about a mile south of Hackett's Gully, and about one and a half miles south-east of Mr. Loaring's residence at Wood St. Mars in Piesse Gully, both of which localities are mentioned in Mr. Dell's paper.

—MARIE PARTON, Bickley.

Breeding of White-necked Herons (*Ardea pacifica*) in the South-West.—Serventy and Whittell (*Birds of Western Australia*, 1962: 118) state—"there are very few nesting records" (of the White-necked Heron) "in the southern parts of the State. Two pairs made an abortive attempt at nesting near Kellerberrin in September 1953 (P. S. Stone)."

In September 1957, P. Slater observed a White-necked Heron carrying nesting material near a dam two miles south of Katanning. In February 1964, R. Garstone and P. Slater investigated a report by John Day of Katanning that a colony of White-necked Herons were nesting on a swamp nine miles south-east of Katanning. Unfortunately the birds had left already but the nests, built in flooded gums (*Eucalyptus rudis*), were similar to those experienced in the Kimberley Division by Peter Slater in March 1961 and March 1962. Descriptions of the birds by Mr. Day tallied exactly with the appearance of the White-necked Heron. Visits to the area later in 1964 failed to reveal any further attempts by the Herons to nest again.

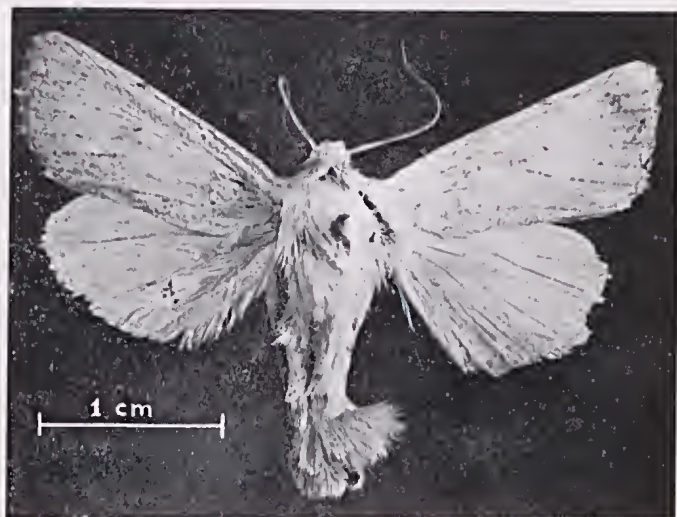
On December 9, 1964, we visited Lake Toolibin, 24 miles south-east of Narrogin, to investigate a rookery of White Egrets (*Egretta alba*), apparently unrecorded but well known to duck shooters who pointed it out to Tom Riggert on November 8.

While examining the rookery we noted four breeding pairs of White-necked Herons. The nest contents were: (1) three eggs (five on December 16), (2) three eggs, (3) two small chicks, (4) one almost fully-fledged chick. All nests were similar in shape 15-18 inches in diameter, very shallow and similar in construction to those of the White-faced Heron, but larger and shallower than nests found in the Kimberley Division. They were placed in flooded *Casuarina glauca* trees at heights varying from six to ten feet. The chick from nest four (4) was banded with ring number 110-01809. While being handled it regurgitated some semi-digested tadpoles.

—T. RIGGERT, Fisheries & Fauna Department, Perth; E. LINDGREN, Zoology Department, University of Western Australia; P. SLATER, Claremont.

A Second Specimen of *Sideridis palleuca* Turner (Lepidoptera: Nectuidae) from Rottnest Island.—While I was spending some time during 1960 collecting insects on Rottnest Island, Mr. I. F. B. Com-

mon, Division of Entomology, C.S.I.R.O., Canberra, pointed out to me in a personal communication that the white armyworm noctuid moth, *Sideridis palleuca*, was known only from one specimen and that it was from Rottnest Island. This specimen, a female described by A. J. Turner in 1929 (*Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust.*, 53: 279), had been collected in November by Mr. W. H. Mathews. Although I caught numerous noctuid moths in insect light traps and by netting on the island during 1960, no specimens of *S. palleuca* were found.



The white noctuid moth, *Sideridis palleuca*, from Rottnest Island (male, W.A.M. No. 65-1).

Recently I was again able to visit the island and on the night of March 24, 1965, which followed a week of warm sunny days, I saw a snowy white moth which could have been *S. palleuca*. After some difficulty I eventually captured this active moth off the ceiling of one of the bungalows. It was the only moth of its kind that I saw during a week of collecting.

The specimen fitted the description by Turner, and after it was pinned and labelled I sent it to Mr. Common for checking against the holotype which is in the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra. Mr. Common confirmed the identification and returned the specimen which is now lodged (W.A.M. No. 65-1) in the W.A. Museum. The specimen is a male of wingspan 34 mm. and smaller than the holotype female which is 40 mm.

The fact that the holotype was found in November and the second specimen in March indicates that there could be more than one generation of these moths every year.

The photograph of the W.A. Museum's specimen reproduced here may assist anyone who is willing to collect and present specimens of this easily recognisable and seemingly rare moth.

—L. E. KOCH, W.A. Museum, Perth.